<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 20, 22, 28 to 50, 52 and 58 to 63 without

prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 21, 23, 51, 53 and 64 as

shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. to 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

(a) reading data files belonging to an indicated directory;

(b) extracting meta-data from the data files read in said step (a);

(c) generating meta-data for the directory <u>by using a meta-data item having</u>

<u>content which is common to all of</u> ~~based on~~ the meta-data extracted in said step (b); and

(d) attaching the meta-data generated in said step (c) to directory data as

meta-data corresponding to a file belonging to the directory.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

in said step (c), <u>when there is no meta-data item having content which is</u>

<u>common to all of the meta-data extracted in said step (b),</u> the meta-data for the directory is

generated based on a meta-data item <u>having content which is</u> shared by the most meta-data

extracted in said step (b).

24. (Original) The method set forth in claim 21, further comprising the step of:

(e) generating a new directory, and recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which includes meta-data items used in the meta-data for the directory generated in said step (c);

wherein, in said step (.d), the meta-data generated in said step (c) is attached to directory data corresponding to the new directory.

25. (Original) The method set forth in claim 21, further comprising the step of:

(e) generating a new directory, and recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which does not include meta-data items used in the meta-data for the directory generated in said step (c).

26. (Original) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

the data file is an image data file, an audio data file, or a dynamic image data file.

27. (Original) The method set forth in claim 26, wherein:

in said step (d) , the meta-data generated in said step (c) is appended to the end of the directory data.

28. to 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) A data processing device comprising:

reading means, for reading data files belonging to an indicated directory;

extracting means, for extracting meta-data from the data files read by said reading means;

generating means, for generating meta-data for the directory by using a meta-data item having content which is common to all of based on the meta-data extracted by said extracting means; and

attaching means, for attaching the meta-data generated by said generating means to directory data as meta-data corresponding to a file belonging to the directory.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein, when there is no meta-data item having content which is common to all of the meta-data extracted by the extracting means, said generating means generate the meta-data for the directory based on a meta-data item having content which is shared by the most meta-data extracted by said extracting means.

54. (Original) The device set forth in claim 51, further comprising:

first recording means, for generating a new directory, and recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which includes meta-data items used in the meta-data for the directory generated by said generating means;

wherein said attaching means attach the meta-data generated by said generating means to directory data corresponding to the new directory.

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55. (Original) The device set forth in claim 51, further comprising:

second recording means, for generating a new directory, and recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which does not include meta-data items used in the meta-data for the directory generated by said generating means.

56. (Original) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein:

the data file is an image data file, an audio data file, or a dynamic image data file.

57. (Original) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein:

said attaching means append the meta-data generated by said generating means to the end of the directory data.

58. to 63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) A memory medium storing~~,~~ a control program to be executed by a computer, said control program comprising code for performing the steps of:

(a) reading data files belonging to an indicated directory;

(b) extracting meta-data from the data files read in said step (a);

(c) generating meta-data for the directory <u>by using a meta-data item having content which is common to all of</u> ~~based on~~ the meta-data extracted in said step (b); and

(d) attaching the meta-data generated in said step (c) to directory data as meta-data corresponding to a file belonging to the directory.